

For Immediate Release



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COUNTY MAKES RAT TRAPS AVAILABLE TO NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS "Neighbor Helping Neighbor" Campaign Rallies Residents

(Phoenix)— In the ongoing fight to control roof rats, Maricopa County Vector Control will be loaning about 800 rat traps to the Neighbor Helping Neighbor Campaign, a coalition of homeowner's associations and volunteer groups of east Phoenix residents.

"We've been saying all along that this has to be a collaborative effort. The response of this neighborhood has been incredible," said Al Brown, Director of the Environmental Services Department. "Their clean-up efforts, distribution of information, and now trapping on their own property combined with our bait stations increases the probability of controlling this problem."

The County will provide instructions for the loaned traps and a waiver for residents to sign. The neighborhood group will distribute the snap traps to residents. "We have to do what we can to interrupt the rat's path of travel on trees, houses and walls," said Barry Paceley, founder of the neighborhood group.

The purpose of the Neighbor Helping Neighbor campaign is to:

- Distribute information to east Phoenix residents:
- Coordinate citrus picking events:
- Promote landscape clean-up; and
- Provide information about rodent proofing and eradication.

There will be a community wide citrus picking event on March 9 and 10, involving the east Phoenix residents, scouts, and school students. Residents can call the campaign's hotline at (602) 667-0366 or email: scouts@paceley.net with questions or concerns.

For more information about roof rats, go to www.maricopa.gov/envsvc. To report a complaint, call the Citizen's Environmental Complaint Line at (602) 506-6616 or on-line at: www.maricopa.gov/envsvc/communit/complain.asp.